

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USAGE NP

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:APRIL 26 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. GVN SOURCES SAY HUNGARIAN ARMY OFFICER ON ICCS
DEFECTED AND SOUGHT REFUGE IN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
(UPI, CHITRIB; WP; WSJ). SAME SOURCES STATE THAT
DEFECTOR REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA
(WP). TWO OTHER HUNGARIANS AND ONE POLE HAVE DEFECTED
FROM ICCS SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED (WSJ).
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2. JANE FONDA, TOM HAYDEN AND INFANT SON TROI STOP
OFF IN VIENTIANE AS GUESTS OF PL FOLLOWING 24-DAY
VISIT TO NVN. FONDA SAYS MET WITH PHAM VAN DONG
AND LE DUC THO IN HANOI (NYT).

3. MIL SOURCES SAY COMMUNIST GUNNERS BOMBARD AND ASSAULT SVN MARINE POST NEAR QUANG TRI CITY IN FIRST ATTACK THERE SINCE C-F(UPI, BALTO N-A 4/25). SAME SOURCES SAY COMMUNISTS "APPARENTLY" OVERRAN FIVE MILITIA OUTPOSTS SW OF SAIGON (UPI, BALTO N-A 4/25). MIL COMMAND REPORTS THAT COMMUNIST GUNNERS HIT AUDITORIUM FILLED WITH SVN DRAFTEES NINE MILES NORTH OF SAIGON; FIVE MORTAR ROUNDS KILL 17, WOUND 118 (WP).

4. GKR SOURCES REPORT 43 REBELS KIA IN FIERCE CLASH AT TAKEO, TEN KIA IN DAY-LONG BATTLE NEAR KAMPOT, AND TWO KIA IN VILLAGE ELEVEN MILES NORTH OF PP THAT FANK IS TRYING TO RE-CAPTURE (REUTER PP).

JAPAN

5. REUTER'S KRAFT (APRIL 25) REPORTS SEN. SYMINGTON SAYING HE IS HOLDING UP, AT LEAS TEMPORARILY, SENATE APPROVAL OF HODGSON NOMINATION UNTIL HE LEARNS MORE ABOUT HODGSON'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR TOKYO POST; DURING SFRC HEARINGS, SENATOR HAD QUESTIONED NOMINEE ON WHETHER HE WOULD BE IMPARTIAL IN DEALING WITH LOCKHEED WHEN FIRM COMPETES WITH OTHER US MANUFACTURERS TO SELL JAPAN AIRCRAFT. KRAFT NOTES THAT MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS IS HEADQUARTERED IN MISSOURI.

6. VIEWING RESTORED FORMER IMPERIAL PALACE IN KYOTO, CHITRIB'S KIRK SAYS WHILE FOR THOSE NOT JAPANESE "IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO APPRECIATE" PALACE'S APPEAL, EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FROM JAPANESE TOURISTS INDICATE "TREMENDOUS EMOTIONAL PULL STILL EXERTED BY THE POLITICALLY POWERLESS IMPERIAL FAMILY."

7. AP TOKYO REPORTS POLICE ACROSS JAPAN ON ALERT THURSDAY IN REACTION TO REPORTS OF POSSIBLE HIJACK UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTEMPTS OR ATTACKS ON ISRAELI PROPERTY ON ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY. POLICE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM "SEVERAL SOURCES" THAT PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS HAD PENETRATED JAPAN AND WERE PLANNING ATTACKS.

KOREA

8. KCIA ANNOUNCED THURSDAY THAT ABOUT 240 PEOPLE ARE UNDER INTERROGATION IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH-STUDENT LEAGUE THAT ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED OVERTHROW GOVT. APRIL 3 THROUGH VIOLENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. AGENCY RELEASES NAMES OF 60, PRESUMABLY ALREADY ARRESTED, INCLUDING 2 JAPANESE (NYT). CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, REPORTS INDICATIONS ARE ROK PLANNING

TO BUCK INTERNATIONAL AND POSSIBLE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION BY COURT-MARTIALING THOSE ARRESTED AND POSSIBLY GIVING DEATH SENTENCES. GAIMUSHO SPOKESMAN TOLD REPORTERS THURSDAY THAT GOJ HAS REPEATEDLY ASKED SEOUL FOR HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT AND RELEASE OF JAPANESE.

9. IN TOKYO, WP'S OBERDORFER SAYS FREE-LANCE WRITER MASAKI TACHIKAWA IS ONE OF JAPANESE, LIKE MANY OTHERS,

BEING HELD WITH NO FORMAL CHARGES YET MADE PUBLIC. CITES REPORTS THAT TACHIKAWA'S MAGAZINE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY. REPORTS ALMOST ENTIRE STAFF OF KOREAN STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION ALSO UNDER ARREST.

CHINA

10. FM SILVEIRA ANNOUNCES INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED PRC COMMERCIAL MISSION TO VISIT BRAZIL IN AUGUST, BUT QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS SOMETHING TO BE CONSIDERED IN FUTURE (AP, SUN; WSJ).

11. EX-PM HEATH GOING TO PEKING MAY 4 FOR TALKS, STAYING 8 DAYS. GOVT. SPOKESMAN SAYS WILSON HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FORMAL PEKING INVITATION, BUT PLANS NO FOREIGN TRIPS "THIS SIDE OF AN ELECTION" (SUN).

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BURMA

12. CITIES SERVICE AND SUN OIL SAY THEY HAVE OBTAINED SERVICE CONTRACT TO EXPLORE FOR OIL OFF BURMA COAST; THIRD PARTNER IS ROBINA OIL, OF LIBERIA. CITIES SERVICE IS OPERATOR FOR GROUP, WITH EACH MEMBER HOLDING ONE-THIRD INTEREST IN PRODUCTION-SHARING CONTRACT WITH GUB-OWNED MYANMA OIL CORP. (WSJ).

GENERAL

13. BACK FROM 3-WEEK ASIAN TOUR, AGRICULTURE SEC. BUTZ TELLS NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON OF UNDERCURRENT OF BELIEF IN SOME FOREIGN MARKETS THAT US WILL STOCKPILE FOOD FOR WORLD AT ITS OWN EXPENSE; BUT SAYS AFTER HE INFORMED ASIAN LEADERS "RESOLUTELY" THAT THIS IS NOT SO, HE BEGAN DETECTING SOME REALIZATION BY OTHER NATIONS THAT THEY MUST PLACE THEIR ORDERS FOR US FOODSTUFFS WELL IN ADVANCE AND DO THEIR OWN STOCKPILING. FOUND IN ASIA "GROWING DISPOSITION FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION," AND SAYS HE TOLD LEADERS OF COUNTRIES HE VISITED THAT US THIS YEAR WILL HAVE MOST MASSIVE SINGLE COUNTRY INCREASE IN FARM PRODUCTION IN WORLD'S

HISTORY (WP'S CLAIBORNE).

14. WP'S JACK ANDERSON CITES SUMMARY DIGESTS OF TESTIMONY GIVEN BY WH AIDE LAST YEAR BEFORE CLOSED SESSION OF SASC THAT CINCPAC ADM. GAYLOR, THEN NSA CHIEF, WANTED FBI TO CONDUCT SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY INTO FOREIGN EMBASSIES FOR CRYPTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL, BUT HOOVER REFUSED BECAUSE OF RISK.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

VIETNAM

15. RECALLING AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S ATTACK ON NYT REPORT, ADVICE TO DOS ON KENNEDY REQUEST, AND LETTER TO WEBBER, WP SAYS "MR. MARTIN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN OVERCOME BY AN EMOTIONAL COMPULSION TO SUPPORT SOUTH VIETNAM BY MEANS THAT ARE SOMETIMES LESS THAN DIPLOMATIC," UNCLASSIFIED

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AND "HE PERCEIVES A LINK STRETCHING FROM HANOI TO THE AMERICAN PEACE MOVEMENT, AND THENCE TO 'SUSCEPTIBLE' NEWS MEDIA AND ELEMENTS TO CONGRESS - ALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF SCUTTling US AID TO SAIGON AND UNDERMINING THE THIEU GOVERNMENT." NOTING MARTIN HAD REPUTATION AS AMBASSADOR WHO KNEW HOW TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT DURING TOURS IN ITALY AND THAILAND, CONCLUDES THAT UNLESS HE LEARNS TO DO SO AGAIN, HE MAY SOON OUTLIVE HIS USEFULNESS IN SAIGON.

16. ST. L. P-D (APRIL 18) SAYS MARTIN REGARDS HIS MAIN FUNCTION TO SERVE AS APOLOGIST AND ADVOCATE FOR THIEU DICTATORSHIP. SAYS HE WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO MISLEAD AMERICANS ABOUT HOW GVN, WITH US AID, IS DELIBERATELY BLOCKING IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE TERMS; AND THEREBY HE IS CONTINUING PATTERN OF OFFICIAL DUPLICITY ABOUT NATURE AND EXTENT OF US INVOLVEMENT IN SVN. THERE IS PLENTY OF MORAL GUILT TO GO AROUND IN VN AND MARTIN MIGHT PONDER WHETHER LION'S SHARE BELONGS TO PEACE ADVOCATES OR THOSE WHO DOING UTMOST TO REARM SAIGON'S MILITARY THEREBY PROLONGING WAR. ADDS, ANSWER IS AS CLEAR AS MARTIN'S RECORD, WHICH IS STRONG ARGUMENT FOR PROMPT RECALL.

17. ATLANTA CONSTITUTION (APRIL 21) REMARKS THAT MORE THAN ONE YEAR SINCE SIGNING OF AGREEMENT, PEACE IS AS ELUSIVE AS IT WAS BEFORE HAK WON NOBEL PRIZE. OBSERVES KHMER COMMUNISTS SENSELESSLY POURING ROCKETS INTO PP, WITH NO MIL ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED; AND IN STARK CONTRAST TO OUTRAGED WORLD OPINION OVER US BOMBING OF HANOI, THERE IS LITTLE NOTICE OF IT

THROUGHOUT WORLD. IN SVN, NVN INVADERS CONTINUE TO TRY TO BRING DOWN GVN BY FORCE OF ARMS, WHILE NVN REMAINS UNTOUCHED; AND ICCS IS NO MORE THAN WINDOW DRESSING. INFLUX OF NVN FORCES INTO LAOS HAS NOW GENERATED GRAVE CONCERN IN THAILAND.

AUSTRALIA

18. FROM CANBERRA, BRIAN TOOHEY (CSM) SEES PUBLISHED UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORT OF STUDY ON MINING ACTIVITIES PUTTING MAJOR OBSTACLE IN LIB-CP PATH TO REGAIN POWER. REPORT SHOWS THAT CONCESSIONS GRANTED BY LIB-CP GOVERNMENT BEFORE 1972 RESULTED IN AUSSIE MINING COMPANIES PAYING TAXES AT ONLY ONE-QUARTER NORMAL COMPANY RATE, DURING LAST SIX FINANCIAL YEARS. BEFORE PUBLICATION OF REPORT, OPPOSITION PROMISED TO PROVIDE NEW FORMS OF CONCESSIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO REPLACE THOSE REMOVED BY ALP GOVT. FIGURES SHOW THAT EVEN IGNORING SOME GOVT. COSTS, FEDERAL TREASURY FINISHED WITH DEFICIT OF 55 MIL AUSTRALIAN DOLS WHILE DECLARED MINING PROFITS WERE 2.07 BIL IN LAST SIX YEARS. PROFITS ACCRUING TO OVERSEAS INTERESTS EXCEEDED ONE BILLION, GIVING ADDED AMMO TO GOVT'S CHARGE THAT FORMER GOVTS. STRENGTHENED GRIP OF OVERSEAS INVESTORS ON AUSSIE MINING SCENE.

JAPAN

19. CSM'S POND IN TOKYO SAYS SEASONED POLITICAL OBSERVERS SEE TANAKA AS LIKELY SHOO-IN NEXT YEAR FOR SECOND TERM, HAVING WEATHERED STORM GENERATED BY JAPAN-PRC AIR PACT. INFORMED SOURCES SAY THAT ALTHOUGH HOT WORDS ARE STILL BEING EXCHANGED AMONG LDP MEMBERS, DIFFERENT FACTIONS HAVE ESSENTIALLY AGREED TO COMPROMISE AND RATIFY. ONE CONDITION ATTACHED WAS THAT JAPAN-TAIWAN FLIGHTS MUST BE RESUMED BEFORE JAPAN-PRC FLIGHTS START. TANAKA AND OHIRA HAVE BEEN SEEKING IMMEDIATE RATIFICATION, WHILE PRO-TAIWAN LDP MEMBERS HAVE CALLED FOR DELAY - AND FOR OHIRA'S RESIGNATION BECAUSE OF BREAK IN TAIWAN AIR LINKS. ASSUMPTION THAT TAIWAN'S ANGER WILL COOL SUFFICIENTLY IN FEW MONTHS TO RESTORE AIR LINKS IS ONLY A HOPE; SO FAR THERE IS NO HINT OF TAIWAN SOFTENING. JAPANESE DIPLOMATS AND POLITICIANS ENVISION OHIRA RESIGNING AS PART OF GENERAL CABINET RESHUFFLE FOLLOWING JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION; THIS, THEY HOPE, WOULD NOT ONLY PLEASE OHIRA, BUT WOULD ALSO SAVE FACE FOR TAIWAN AND ENABLE IT TO COMPROMISE WITH HIS SUCCESSOR. WHETHER OR NOT TAIWAN RESPONDS, COMPROMISE REPRESENTS VICTORY FOR TANAKA AND OHIRA INSIDE LDP OVER FUKUDA. SIMILARLY, SEIRANKAI RIGHT-WINGERS - WHO PROTESTED

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JAPAN-PRC AIR AGREEMENT BY RESIGNING THEIR OFFICIAL POSTS EARLIER THIS WEEK - HAVE FALLEN INTO DISAGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES. THIS MEANS THAT PROBABLY NO OTHER FACTION LEADER CAN SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE TANAKA IN NEXT

YEAR'S LDP LEADERSHIP RACE. TANAKA'S POPULARITY REMAINS IN LOW 20 PERCENTILE IN PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY REMAINS UNEASY WITH IMPETUOUS TANAKA AS PM. ONLY THING THAT WOULD TRANSLATE TANAKA'S UNPOPULARITY INTO PARTY DECISION TO DUMP HIM - FEAR OF MASSIVE VOTER DEFECTION FROM LDP BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE PM - IN NOW HISTORY. ECONOMISTS BELIEVE WORST OF JAPANESE INFLATION IS OVER.

CHINA

20. EDWIN MCDOWELL (CSM) IN HONG KONG INTERVIEWS LIN YU-TANG. AMONG OTHER THINGS, LEARNS LIN IS NOW SORTING OUT FOR PUBLICATION HIS WRITING FROM EARLY YEARS IN CHINA, ESSAYS PUBLISHED IN COLUMN TITLED "LITTLE CRITIC" FOR AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY IN SHANGHAI AROUND 1930. HE ALSO PLANS SEVERAL MORE BOOKS AND MANY MORE ESSAYS.

MALAYSIA

21. GLOBE'S CROCKER SNOW IN KL NOTES APRIL 24 ARRIVAL FOR ADB MEETING OF TREAS. SEC. SHULTZ, ACCOMPANIED BY 60 PERSONS INCLUDING 11 SECRET SERVICE AGENTS. COMMENTS THAT "SIZE OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION IS NO REFLECTION ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PARTICULAR MEETING, WHICH IS BILLED AS ROUTINE, OR ON ANY OBVIOUS SECURITY THREAT AT HAND." CITES "SHEEPISH" US OFFICIAL THAT IT IS MORE "JUST THE GRAND WAY WE DO THINGS NOW." ALSO NOTES THAT SHULTZ, WHO WILL RETIRE IN MAY, ARRIVED IN SPECIAL GOVT JET ALONG WITH 5 CONGRESSMEN, THEIR WIVES, 3 DOZEN TREASURY DEPT. ASSISTANTS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS, "GIVE OR TAKE A FEW." CONTRASTS SIZE OF US DELEGATION WITH THAT OF JAPANESE - WHO CONTRIBUTED ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MUCH TO ADB CAPITAL RESOURCES AND SPECIAL FUND AS US OVER THE YEARS - SENDING DELEGATION ONE-THIRD AS LARGE. OBSERVES

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THAT US TEAM MAKES UP MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF 600 DELEGATES PRESENT. NUMBERS AND REQUIREMENTS OF US TEAM CAUSING SOME DIFFICULTIES FOR ADB OFFICIALS, SOME RESENTMENT ON PART OF HOST GOVT - AND SOME GRUMBLING ABOUT COSTS AMONG RESIDENT DIPLOMATS OF US EMBASSY.

WHAT BOTHERED MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS MOST IS OVERBEARING
WAYS OF S.S. CONTINGENT. SHULTZ PARTY HAS TAKEN
OVER COMPLETE FLOOR OF HILTON HOTEL, CITY'S MOST
LUXURIOUS AND OVERPRICED, AND HAS OVERFLOWED TO FLOOR-
AND-A-HALF OF MORE MODEST HOLIDAY INN NEXT DOOR.
ADB MEETING TAKES PLACE IN HILTON, YET TOTAL 18 CARS
AND DRIVERS HAVE BEEN HIRED FOR US TEAM'S TRANSPORT
NEEDS.

ADD VIETNAM

22. SHARON BAILEY (ATLANTA CONSTITUTION APRIL 20)
COVERS RUSK SPEECH TO ASNE. ON VN, FORMER SECSTATE
SAID FINAL VERDICT ON WHETHER US WAS WISE TO "GET
IN OR GET OUT" MAY NOT COME IN FOR 10 TO 20 YEARS.
REMINISCING ON HIS CABINET YEARS, RUSK SAID MOST
OF WAR ADMINISTRATION'S PROBLEMS UNTIL 1966 CAME
NOT FROM "DOVES" BUT FROM "HAWKS" WHO WANTED THE
US TO USE MAXIMUM FORCE. THE "OVERWHELMING DANGERS"
OF A MAJOR POWER CONFRONTATION AND A NUCLEAR CONFLICT
CAUSED ADMIN TO REJECT THAT VIEW, ACCORDING RUSK,
WHO ADDED THAT IF HE COULD MAKE CHANGES IN WAY VN
WAS HANDLED, HE WOULD HAVE INSISTED ON A VOTE FROM
CONGRESS ON THE WAR EFFORT EVERY YEAR; "NO PRESIDENT
CAN KEEP AMERICAN TROOPS IN COMBAT VERY LONG WITHOUT
THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE
AMERICAN CONGRESS." KISSINGER

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